

PRESS DEPARTMENT OF STATE



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INFORMAL MEETING WITH THE PRESS BY
THE HONORABLE HENRY A. KISSINGER
SECRETARY OF STATE
AND

HIS EXCELLENCY MAX VAN DER STOEL
DUTCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
FOLLOWING THEIR BILATERAL MEETING
AT THE HILTON HOTEL
BRUSSELS
DECEMBER 11, 1974

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, could we ask you, have there been any new developments in relations between KLM and your country recently? Could you give us some statement?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I think this is primarily a Dutch problem so why doesn't the Foreign Minister ...

FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL: A Dutch/American problem. (Laughter)

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, we will try to make it a Dutch problem. (Laughter)

FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL: We will not succeed in that. Well, we discussed, of course, among other things the problem of KLM, and I explained to the Secretary why we feel extremely worried about this and why we feel that the American proposals are unacceptable. The Secretary besides has said that the U.S. Government would be prepared to hold any unilateral action until a new round of negotiations would start. So, in effect, I expect that some time in the new year there will be a new round of negotiations. In the meantime, I would not expect any unilateral action on the American side.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: This is correct. We discussed a variety of issues including this, and we would like to settle this issue on the basis of the traditional friendship between the Netherlands and the United States. So we agreed to resume negotiations early in the new year, and that we would not take any unilateral action until the negotiations have had a chance, and in any event, the Foreign Minister and I will consult before any unilateral actions, if any, are taken; but we are hopeful to be able to avoid it.

QUESTION: How about the procedure which is going on now in the Court of Appeals in Washington?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, I have to tell you the truth: I am not familiar with all the technical details and we will carry out what I have said here.

QUESTION: Can you say what other issues you discussed?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Oh, yes, we discussed the European Security Conference, some energy problems, a little talk about the European summit ...

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FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL: The progress of the MBFR negotiations.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Yes.

QUESTION: Starfighters?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Starfighters, I am not an arms salesman. Starfighters, no, as it happens, it didn't come up, but I would add that all the discussions were in the spirit of friendship which is characteristic of Dutch/American relations and of my personal relations with the Foreign Minister.

QUESTION: Coming back to the Atlantic flights, is there any idea for us to believe that maybe you would start discussions on a more international basis and not purely bilateral?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I think we had better leave it as it is. They will certainly start first on a bilateral basis.

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